(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that they are misusing Government funds to a great deal;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to prevent the same; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes Sir,

(b) to (d) Grants are released by the respective Departments/Ministries to the voluntary organizations, operating in their sphere, who are required to ensure that the grant is properly utilised for the purpose for which it is sanctioned. Action for misutilisation of grants is taken by the concerned Ministries/Departments who have reported that in such cases concerned voluntary organizations are blacklisted and action for recovery of the grant has been initiated by the concerned Department/Ministry. Ministry of Finance has also advised the administrative Departments/Ministries to ensure that fresh grants are not released, unless utilization certificates in respect of previous grants have been obtained.

Import of Crude Oil for Panipat Refinery

*514. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation had imported 283,967 tonnes of crude oil for the Panipat refinery more than its requirement which resulted in a loss of Rs.97.84 crores and interest of Rs.3.57 crores on blocked funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken steps to fix the responsibility for the unnecessary loss to the exchequer; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) 2,83,967 tonnes of crude oil was imported for Panipat Refinery in December, 1997 at the prevalent price of that time and as per standard procedure for crude procurement, anticipating that Panipat refinery would be commissioned in February, 1998. Due to unforeseen problems like metallurgical mismatch,

problem in oily water sewer system etc., that cropped up at the time of pre-commissioning activities, the commissioning of the unit got delayed. First trial operation could be taken in May, 1998 against the earlier estimate of February, 1998. Thus the loss is attributable to the unforeseen factors that delayed the commissioning process. Such teething problems are invariably associated with the commissioning of new facilities in a grass-root refinery. The quantum of reported loss is yet to be reconciled.

Inter-state Counterfeit Currency Notes Racket

†*515. SHRI GOPAL SINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of inter-state counterfeit currency notes racket in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such incidents are on the rise in the bordering districts of Kutch in Gujarat and other States; and

(d) the amount of counterfeit currency notes confiscated during the year 2000 and the number of persons arrested and punished ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Cases of seizure of fake currency notes are reported from time to time from various parts of the country. Available information indicates that fake Indian currency notes are being clandestinely inducted into the country from across the Indo-Pak border and Indo-Nepal border, besides being fabricated in India through a variety of techniques involving the use of printing presses, colour photocopiers, scanners and colour printers.

(c) No increase in such cases have been reported in the Kutch District of Gujarat. A statement showing the number of cases of seizure of counterfeit currency during the last two years as received from National Crime Records Bureau (Ministry of Home Affairs) is given in the statement (*See* below).

(d) During the year 2000, in 1,514 incidents of counterfeit currency notes, an amount of Rs. 3.54 crores (approx.) has been seized from 1,189 accused persons.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.